

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2508

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: REVOLT AGAINST INTERNAL CENSORSHIP IN RADIO
CLUBE DE MOCAMBIQUE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 313

1. DURING PAST FEW DAYS, NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAVE BEEN GIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO REVOLT OF RADIO EDITORS, INCLUDING CHIEF EDITOR EDUARDO REBELO, AGAINST MANAGEMENT OF RADIO CLUBE DE MOCAMBIQUE (RCM). DISSIDENT EDITORS ACCUSE RCM MANAGEMENT OF BEING RIGHT-WING SYMPATHIZERS OF FORMER "MARCELIST" REGIME AND OF EXERCISING INTERNAL CENSORSHIP PREVENTING RCM EDITORIAL STAFF FROM GIVING APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS OF APRIL 25. OPPOSITION FROM CHIEF EDITOR REBELO LED RCM MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT "RELUCTANTLY" HIS RESIGNATION DATED MARCH 14 AND TO SUSPEND ONE OTHER FULL EDITOR AND THREE EDITORIAL INTERNS WHO MANIFESTED "SOLIDARITY" WITH REBELO. WIDESPREAD CRITICISM IN NEWS MEDIA OF RCM MANAGEMENT APPARENTLY EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING DISMISSAL OF RCM PRODUCTION MANAGER DR. EDUARDO PARREIRA, ONE OF PRINCIPALS ACCUSED OF CENSORSHIP BY DIS-

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SIDENT EDITORS.

2. RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF RCM MANAGEMENT AND DISSIDENTS OUTLINED IN GREAT DETAIL IN NUMEROUS COMMUNIQUE, MEMORANDA, AND LETTERS. THEIR RESGECTIVE VIEWS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

A) RCM MANAGEMENT STATES RCM DID NOT BROADCAST HISTORIC EVENTS OF APRIL 25 ER SAME DAY "FOR REASONS BEYOND ITS CONTROL". THESE REASONS, ACCORDING TO REBELO, WERE THAT RCM MANAGEMENT OVERRULED HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT NEWS BE BROADCAST IMMEDIATELY AND VOLUNTARILY SUBMITTED IT FOR CENSORSHIP TO EX-GOVERNOR GENERAL.

B) RCM MANAGEMENT CLAIMS IT HAS NOT EXERCISED INTERNAL CENSORSHIP; ON CONTRARY HAS RECOMMENDED AMPLE COVERAGE TO PROVIDE BALANCE BETWEEN VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AND VIEWPOINTS. IN CASE OF REPORT ON GENERAL SPINOLA'S PRESS CONFERENCE SENT FROM LISBON BY RCM CORRESPONDENT PEREIRA DE SOUSA, RCM MANAGEMENT DECIDED IT WAS PRUDENT TO WAIT FOR REPORTS FROM EMISSORA NACIONAL TO CONFIRM FACTS AND "THUS AVOID INVOLUNTARY MISINTERPRETATION OF EVENT". WHEN EMISSORA NACIONAL REPORT ARRIVED, RCM MANAGEMENT, WITH CONCURRENCE OF CHIEF EDITOR (HE DENIES IT), DECIDED TO BROADCAST IT INSTEAD BECAUSE IT CLEARER AND MORE CONCISE THAN SOUSA REPORT. ASIDE FROM THIS INCIDENT, DISSIDENTS CLAIM RCM MANAGEMENT PRACTICED CENSORSHIP BY PREVENTING BROADCAST OF A) ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 29 OF POPULAR DEMONSTRATION IN LOURENCO MARQUES SUPPORTING JUNTA; B) TELEGRAM TO JUNTA FROM DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE; C) STUDENT MANIFESTO OF APRIL 27; AND D) SOME INCIDENTS DURING GUMO DEMONSTRATION IN XIPAMANINE.

C) RCM MANAGEMENT CLAIMS IT IDENTIFIED ITSELF UNCONDITIO-
NALLY WITH MOVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES AND JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION FROM VERY BEGINNING. DISSIDENTS ACCUSE RCM MANAGE-
MENT OF BEING RIGHT-WING AND LOYAL TO FORMER REGIME.

3. DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE AND DISSIDENT EDITORS HAVE REQUESTED JUNTA AND ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL TO DISMISS PRESENT RCM MANAGEMENT AND TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER NETWORK TO PROMOTE AIMS OF MOVEMENT OF ARMED FORCES. UNION OF JOURNALISTS SUPPORTS POSITION OF DISSIDENT EDITORS
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RM COMMENT: WITHOUT CHIEF EDITOR AND WITH MAJORITY OF EDITORIAL STAFF EITHER ACTING IN "SOLIDARITY" WITH HIM OR SUSPENDED, RCM NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO BULLETINS FROM THE METROPOLE, AND CARRY ALMOST NO LOCAL NEWS. IRONICALLY, REVOLT AGAINST ALLEGED CENSORSHIP BY RCM MANAGE-
MENT SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED INTO MORE COMPLETE, DE FACTO CENSORSHIP DUE TO ABSENCE OF "LIBERAL" DISSIDENT EDITORIAL STAFF. TO DATE, ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF MILITARY AT RCM IS MAJOR EUGENIO FERNANDES APPOINTED BY AD HOC COMMISSION,

WHOSE FUNCTION IS PRESUMABLY "TO SAFEGUARD MILITARY SECRETS
AND AVOID PUBLIC DISTURBANCES" (SEE REFTTEL), RATHER THAN
RUNNING THE WHOLE OPERATION.
VAN OSS

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